



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 304

LCO No. 1767

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Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Department of
2 Correction shall create, within available appropriations, a position
3 within the department to focus on issues concerning children with
4 incarcerated parents. The person holding the position shall report
5 directly to the Commissioner of Correction and the director of
6 programs and treatment, and shall be responsible for: (1) Strategic
7 planning, including developing short and long-term goals for
8 providing services to children of incarcerated parents; (2) assisting
9 with family reunification through re-entry planning and community
10 referrals; (3) acting as a liaison between the correctional facility and
11 community providers to ensure continuity of care for discharging
12 offenders and their children; (4) gathering and evaluating data on the
13 children and families of offenders to determine the impact of services
14 on recidivism and intergenerational incarceration; (5) identifying
15 agency training needs to increase staff awareness and services for
16 children and offenders; and (6) participating in a collaborative
17 oversight committee to guide services for children of incarcerated

18 parents.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of
 20 Correction shall establish, within available appropriations, a grant
 21 program to address issues concerning incarcerated parents. The
 22 program shall: (1) Provide early intervention services to break the cycle
 23 of crime; (2) strengthen families' ability to care for children; (3) help
 24 families maintain ties during incarceration; and (4) promote family
 25 reunification upon release.

26 (b) The department shall provide grants to entities offering services
 27 to families with incarcerated parents to: (1) Address the needs of
 28 incarcerated parents and their families in a cohesive manner that seeks
 29 to break the cycle of incarceration; (2) promote the positive
 30 development of children; (3) prevent the children of incarcerated
 31 parents from joining gangs; and (4) engage parents and caregivers in
 32 competent parenting and educational activities. The services shall
 33 focus on the dynamics of the family unit and the significant role that
 34 family relationships play in helping offenders rebuild their lives. Such
 35 services will be linked to both community agency and criminal justice
 36 programs.

37 (c) The Commissioner of Correction shall report, in accordance with
 38 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of
 39 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
 40 judiciary and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and to
 41 the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 42 matters relating to children by July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter on
 43 the progress of the grant program in reaching its goals.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To provide services to children with incarcerated parents.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]